

**2007 Tribal Nations Children's
Environmental Health Summit**

August 22-23, 2007
Denver, Colorado



COMMENT/EVALUATION SUMMARY

Total number of attendees: 140

Total number of evaluations completed: 67

SATISFACTION:

Please rate the 2007 Tribal Nations CEH Summit with the level that best represents your level of satisfaction:

Level of Satisfaction	Very	Mostly	Somewhat	Not
1. Overall quality of the conference	31	18	5	0
2. Overall value of the conference content	36	11	6	0
3. Organization of the conference	35	14	4	0
4. Summit Web Site Information	26	12	7	2
5. On-Line Registration	27	11	3	3
6. Check-In Procedure	41	9	1	1
7. Quality of conference materials	40	10	3	0
8. Breaks	28	14	6	3
9. Posters/Exhibits Viewing	37	9	5	0
10. Meals (food)	34	12	7	0
11. Meals (service)	35	8	5	3
12. Sleeping Accommodations	24	12	4	1
13. Conference Room Seating	19	25	5	4
14. Conference Room Temperature	13	22	12	6
15. Conference Room Sound	10	30	11	2
16. Overall Program Content	38	10	6	0
17. Program Organization	33	15	6	0

OTHER:

	Yes	No
Have you received information that will help you in your work setting?	53	0
Should a Tribal Children's Environmental Health Summit be offered again next year in a different location?	43	4
Are there any topics that you would like to see addressed in the future? If so, please specify below.	28	5

Topics attendees would like to see addressed in the future:

- What people can do at home to make their lives safer
- Examples of health problems from different areas of U.S.
- More studies being done on Indian lands with Universities
- Talk about environmental justice issues and how that is related to children's health. Ex. Uranium mining, tribes fighting it and why.
- Less general CEH info and more of a focus on issues specific to tribal peoples.
- More answers to the problems available during the summit such as where to go to apply for funding/grants.
- More detailed info about children and daycare/school settings.
- Hazardous materials
- More panel discussion, diversity of perspective
- Longer discussion of voc's and air toxics in the home. Short presentation or definite time given to discussion of chemical cleaners/alternatives.
- Genetics
- Meth in the home and physical health effects on children
- Are there programs out there that have successfully changed lives and communities in Indian country in terms of mold?
- Waste disposal, regular pesticides, disposal and effects
- Coalition projects with other state/local/federal agencies in order to work with tribal and housing authority offices.
- Outdoor (ambient) air quality; tribal industries/enterprises and take home effects on kids
- Environmental exposures in daycare, more on schools.
- Perhaps an extension of occupational health exposures being brought home to the children's lives.
- I would like to see more on the Meth issues in each tribe, and from the EPA. Meth is a big issue where I'm from.
- Who to go to to get more information on lead/mercury levels and where to apply for grants.
- More on pesticides, household products, and recommended substitutes (biodegradable, organic). Share possible recipes and application practices.
- Swimming safety/beach and water safety
- Climate change and its affect on tribes (Studies, current projects, scientific data, if available)
- Mining sites' effects on tribal populations

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

As a result of the Summit, will you be better able to:

As a result of the Summit, will you be better able to:	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify, prevent, and reduce environmental health threats to children in Tribal lands?	48	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Share information, “best practices”, resources, and emerging science regarding protection of children in Tribal lands from environmental hazards?	46	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinate and share information across government agencies, health organizations, health care providers, educators, and the general public in addressing Tribal children’s environmental health issues?	48	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify/implement effective strategies to protect children from environmental contaminants?	44	3

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The majority of participants gave the Summit rave reviews. However, the following major issues were noted. We appreciate participants taking the time to provide us feedback as their thoughtful appraisal is essential to our planning of future conferences.

- Attendees would like to see greater variation in the conference format.
 - A number of individuals noted that all the presentations seemed to be PowerPoint-based, lecture-style carbon copies of each other while the talks that seemed to standout—such as Nelson and Zierenberg’s “Indoor Air Quality in Schools”—took advantage of alternative styles and additives to keep the audience’s attention. One summit participant noted that he or she was “glad they did hands on activities” and that their light humor inspired the most questions of any talk.
 - In addition to the formal presentations, many attendees agreed that more time should be allowed for networking. More interactive activities would not only “help to re-focus the audience’s attention” on the presentation, but would also enable attendees based in different states and regions to discover what other communities are doing to address common environmental health issues.
 - As suggested by one attendee, a possible solution to the aforementioned lack of networking time involves incorporating group meetings into meal times. This would also address the problem participants seemed have with concentrating on presentations during meals.
- Almost universally, attendees were frustrated with the high degree of content overlap between the presentations. One participant noted that the first day’s “programming on asthma was somewhat repetitive and could have been better coordinated to reduce duplication.”
- Many individuals noted that the program was “strong on ‘problems’ and weak on outlining practical solutions,” suggesting that an intensified “focus on the latter [area] is desirable.” More specifically, one participant noted the following:

The material is generally aimed at personal behavior, but how to get the information disseminated to appropriate audiences wasn’t discussed. Sharing technical info is important, but outreach is the next step and [the key to] transforming behavior is [getting] the appropriate information to the target audience.

4. On another organizational note, participants almost universally lamented the lack of time to ask questions of the presenters. According to many attendees, Q/A sessions should be conducted after each presentation in order to avoid attendees forgetting important queries.
5. A number of attendees noted that the Summit's focus seemed to be very general in nature rather than being more appropriately oriented toward Native American issues. One participant pointed out that "more emphasis on cultural uniqueness would have been appreciated." Tied to this concern was the general consensus that the conference needs to involve more presenters with immediate ties to the Native American community who—attendees seem to believe—would be more conscious of Indian cultural issues and requirements. One might connect this lamentation to the widespread accord directed toward Randolph G. Runs After's presentation. Attendees noted that it was "good to see what the other tribes are doing on their environmental issues;" that Randolph's talk mirrored "everything (services) we offer to our community and talks of the problems we see everyday;" and that it was "Good to have a tribal speaker."